



**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between  
The Texas Natural Resource Conservation  
Commission  
And  
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**



We at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) share a commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land. To that end, EPA created the National Environmental Performance Track program and Texas created the Clean Texas Leader program and the Texas Environmental Management System program. These voluntary incentive and recognition programs encourage program members to focus on issues important to their communities, to take a creative approach to solving local problems, and to employ partnerships and networking with neighborhood citizens to achieve environmental goals.

EPA and TNRCC believe we can achieve more by working together than by pursuing our goals independently. Coordinating efforts will enable us to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs as we meet the opportunities that will accompany their growth and development. As program membership increases, so do our opportunities to encourage industry to commit to practices that yield beyond compliance results--and ensure the higher level of environmental protection that EPA, TNRCC, program members, and the American public all seek.

Through this Memorandum of Agreement, EPA and TNRCC commit to creating the best value for our customers; reducing the resource requirements of both the EPA and TNRCC staff and the administrative burden of member organizations; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for program members; and reinforcing and encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance. While encouraging each program to maintain its own identity, EPA and TNRCC pledge to:

- Coordinate the application processes of National Environmental Performance Track and Clean Texas Leader so eligible applicants can apply to both programs simultaneously.
- Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process.
- Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into both programs.
- Develop incentives that reduce program members' administrative burdens, such as reduced reporting and expedited permitting, where feasible, in recognition of their high levels of performance.
- Coordinate the delivery of incentives to achieve maximum environmental benefit and minimize transaction costs.

- Identify for program members a high level point of contact in each program.
- Produce co-marketing tools and conduct joint recruiting and recognition events.
- Identify regulatory innovation opportunities that comply with State and Federal statutes/rules.
- Communicate the measurable environmental results achieved by the National Environmental Track and Clean Texas Leader programs to the public.

These are just the first of many steps we at EPA and TNRCC will take together to enhance our programs and reward program members for their leadership in environmental protection. We will continue to look for additional ways to align our programs so that program members and the environment benefit. Our focus will be to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all partners as we work to align our program requirements and develop additional means to deliver recognition, flexibility, and incentives to our environmental leader members. We look forward to developing a detailed work plan that further defines how our programs will work together and anticipate a cleaner future for the American, and particularly the Texas, environment as a result.

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2002, and remains in effect unless amended by mutual consent.

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Gregg A. Cooke  
Regional Administrator  
EPA Region VI

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Jeffrey A. Saitas  
Executive Director  
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

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Thomas J. Gibson  
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